ving their performance of unloading coal wagons.

Movement of coal by rail to Power Sector is accorded highest priority. Coal supplies to power houses are monitored regularly by an inter-ministerial group and corrective action is taken wherever necessary.

ESI Hospitals and Dispensary

743. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposal for upgradation of some ESI hospitals/ dispensaries in the country;

(b) whether any such ESI hospitals or dispensaries have been selected in Orissa for upgradation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government also propose to set up some new ESI hospitals and dispensaries during 1996-97; and

(e) if so, details of the proposal in that regard for Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A proposal to upgrade the ESI dispensary at Dhenkanal into a Diagnostic Centre with 10 beds has since been received in the ESI Corporation from the Government of Orissa.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Two hospitals with 50 beds each which are already under construction at Bhubaneshwar and Rourkela are likely to be commissioned during 1996-97. Under the phased programme of the ESIC, three ESI dispensaries one each at Puri, Kuarmunda and Laxmi Nagar are also likely to be set up.

Short Supply of Coal to Power Plants

744. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the existing position regarding sup ply of Coal to the power plants in the country;

(b) the total quantity of coal supplied, month-wise to the power plants as against their demand;

(c) the reasons for the short supply of coal, if any; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the coal supply position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The month-wise linkages and supply of coal to power stations during the period April-June, 1996 were as under:

(In million tonnes)
(Data provisional)

Month	linkage	supply
April, 96	16.35	16.44
May, 96	16.35	16.06
June, 96	16.35	15.03

Supplies to some power stations may have been less than the linkages accorded to them. This is mainly on account of supplies being regulated against payment and also due to transportation constraints in moving the linked quantity of coal to the power stations. In certain cases the supplies of coal were also lower than the linked quantity due to the inability oF the power station to consume the projected quantity of coal due to their own technical limitations.

(d) Coal supplies to power sector is accorded the highest priority. Supply of coal to power sector is monitored regularly by an inter-ministerial Group. Appropriate corrective action is taken to step up coal supplies wherever necessary.